



Veteran's Advocate

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Purple Heart Update

The Army has announced a clarification in its guidelines for receiving a Purple Heart, with an emphasis on battlefield concussions being eligible for the medal.

Official Army guidelines have long considered combat-sustained concussions a valid injury worthy of the Purple Heart, but in practice, it has been left to doctors or battlefield commanders to decide whether a blow to the head during combat warranted the medal. With recent studies on brain trauma, however, the rules have been revised to state what constitutes a concussion, with symptoms including momentary loss of consciousness or memory, dizziness, headache, nausea or light sensitivity. Medical treatment, also required for the medal, is defined by the rules to include merely rest and Tylenol.



If you are a Soldier who suffered a concussion and feel you may not have been appropriately recognized for a Purple Heart, the Army urges you to re-apply through your chain of command. Veterans can call 888-276-9472 or email hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil.

Minnesota Month of the Military Child - April 2011

During the month of April, the State of Minnesota takes time to recognize the Month of the Military Child in order to emphasize the important role military children play while a parent or important adult is serving.

Children of service members deal with many issues unique to their situation. Some move frequently, worry about a loved one in harm's way or just feel the stress of being separated from a parent for extended periods of time. All of these issues can make normal childhood activities, such as going to school, watching TV and playing with friends more difficult. It is estimated that over 15,000 children in Minnesota have been affected by a parent's deployment.

During this month, Governor Mark Dayton will send military children a letter of gratitude in honor of their service and sacrifice. To register a military child to receive a letter from the Governor and for resources to support military children, visit: www.mdva.state.mn.us/child.



"Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces, and Their Families"



Each year in April, National County Government month is celebrated. There is a different theme each year that is recognized to draw attention to a specific area of county government. This year's theme is "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces, and their Families." Olmsted County has a Veterans Service office that assists many in the County. We would like to share a little history and overview of this department.

After World War I, the Federal Government created the Veterans Bureau to oversee benefits that were granted by Congress. To assist veterans in applying for these benefits, the American Legion Post 92 in Rochester asked Harold Dean, a WWI veteran, to help veterans in applying for benefits. It is unknown if Harold received a salary for his services. The Legion supplied him with office space and supplies. When the Mayo Civic Auditorium was built, the Mayo brothers gave a corner of the new building to the Legion for their use. Harold worked out of that area.

In 1944, the Minnesota Legislature established the County Veterans Service Officers. This statute mandated that all Minnesota counties provide services to their veteran residents. The first Olmsted County Veterans Service Officer appointed under the new law was a WWI Army veteran named Herb Anderson. He held this position until the mid 1960's.

In 1967, Stanley Dickinson, an Army veteran of World War II, was appointed and served until March 1979.

Timothy Burton, a medically retired Navy veteran of the Vietnam War era was appointed in August 1979. He held the position until his retirement in July of 2005.

Then on July 18, 2005, Bradley Lindsay, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, was appointed to the position. He still holds this position today. At the end of 2007, the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners saw the need for an additional Veteran Services Officer. On March 3, 2008, Neil Doyle, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, was appointed to the second position.

Hiawatha & Win Cres Chapters of Trout Unlimited

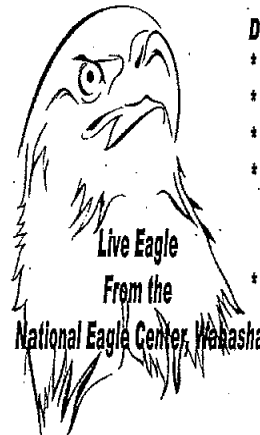
Are Proud to Announce

Veterans Family Picnic & Fly Fishing Extravaganza

**Sylvan Park
Lanesboro, MN
April 30, 2011
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Rain or Shine**



All veterans will receive:
* Fly tying lessons
* Guided fly-fishing trip on streams in SE, MN



Demonstrations of:
* Fly-tying
* Fishing Rod Building
* Flyrod Casting Lessons
* Fly-fishing
Experience on Ponds
No license required
* Bring lawn chair

**Hog roast,
trimmings
& soft drinks**
Compliments of the
Lanesboro Fire Dept

Sponsors:
Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop
Disabled American Veterans

Questions: Call Mike @ 651-565-5466

Are you a Veteran who is facing foreclosure on your home? The Minnesota Home Ownership Center can help. Visit www.hocmn.org for more information. The following link provides specific agencies within each county of Minnesota that can provide counseling <http://hocmn.org/en/foreclosurePreventionmap.cfm>. This is a free service.